

REMARKS

To correct the record, it is noted that the Office Action dated 06/15/2005 incorrectly indicates that the Office Action is "Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2005." In fact, the Office Action is responsive to the Amendment dated February 1, 2005 (and filed with a Certificate of Mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 dated Feb. 1, 2005).

Claims 1 - 32 are pending, with claims 4, 6 - 10, 12 - 16, 20, 22 - 26 and 28 - 32 having been withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a non-elected invention, and claims 1 - 3, 5, 11, 17 - 19, 21 and 27 having been rejected, as will be discussed below.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 17, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hebert (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,186) in view of Holmes, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,172,632). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested. In Fig. 7 of Hebert, an image of an object is projected onto the display device 710 such as a small LCD, and is observed through the left and right optical systems. Comparing Fig. 7 of Hebert to claim 1 of this application, the optical system that includes the imaging element 726, the intermediate field lens 752 and the eyepiece lens 736 corresponds to the left optical viewing system, and the optical system that includes the imaging element 728, the intermediate field lens 754 and the eyepiece lens 738 corresponds to the right optical viewing system. The optical axes of these optical systems are apparently inclined with each other. The Examiner found, as is apparent from page 2 of the Office Action, that the first display field lens 776 and the second display field lens 778 correspond to the left and right optical viewing systems, respectively. However, since the first display field lens 776 is placed on the side of incidence of the display 710, the image displayed on the display 710 can never be observed through the first display field lens 776. Applicant therefore traverses the Examiner's position that the first and second display lenses 776 and 778 correspond to the left and right optical viewing systems of claim 1. As mentioned above, the optical axes of the left and right optical viewing systems of Hebert are inclined with each other. Therefore, Hebert does not meet the limitation in applicant's claim 1, line 5 of "respective optical axes that are . . . aligned substantially parallel with one another".

Further, in Hebert, the effective aperture of the left (right) optical viewing system is not

large enough to cover the optical axis of the right (left) optical viewing system. This is apparent from Fig. 7 of Hebert. In addition, Hebert states, in column 19, lines 45 - 48, that the left and right optical channels 740 and 750 do not overlap at the positions of the polarizers 796, 797 and the analyzers 798, 799. Therefore, applicant traverses the Examiner's position, indicated on page 2 of the Office Action, of "the left optical viewing system having an exit pupil and an effective aperture that includes the optical axis of the right optical viewing system". Holmes, Jr. does not disclose these features of the invention defined in applicant's claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the combination of Hebert and Holmes would **not** have made the invention of claim 1 obvious.

As the language of claims 1, 2, 17, and 18 makes clear, it is the optical axes of the left and right viewing systems that are aligned substantially parallel with one another. In Hebert, the optical axes of the left and right viewing systems are clearly inclined to one another, and thus they are not aligned "substantially parallel with one another" as is claimed. (The Examiner has erroneously interpreted that the parallel lens surfaces of the first and second display field lenses 776, 778 in Hebert satisfy the claim language, which it clearly does not). In addition, in Hebert, the left and right images are not displayed "at respective left and right positions on a display panel", as is claimed in claims 1, 2, 17 and 18. Instead, in Hebert the left and right images are displayed at the same position (i.e., the images are fully overlapped) on the display panel. As claim 5 is dependent from claim 1, and claim 21 is dependent from claim 17, claims 5 and 21 distinguish over Hebert in view of Holmes, Jr., at least in the manner that claims 1 and 17 distinguish over these references. Therefore, the combination of Hebert in view of Holmes, Jr. does not make any of claims 1, 2, 5, 17, 18 and 21 unpatentable.

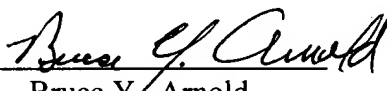
Claims 3, 11, 19, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hebert (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,186) in view of Holmes, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,172,632) and further in view of Bos (U.S. Patent No. 4,719,507). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested. With regard to claims 3 and 19, each of these claims include both limitations, discussed above, that distinguish claims 1, 2, 17 and 18 from the combination of Hebert in view of Holmes, Jr. Bos does not disclose the features of the invention discussed

above. Thus, for the same reasons as discussed above for claims 1, 2, 5, 17, 18 and 21 it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is erroneous and should be withdrawn. With regard to claims 11 and 27, claims 11 and 27 of this application do not include the limitation of "respective optical axes that are aligned substantially parallel with on another". However, the arguments above other than concerning the limitation of "respective optical axes that are aligned substantially parallel with on another" stand true for claims 11 and 27. In addition, claim 11 distinguishes over the combination of Hebert, Holmes, Jr., and Bos, at least by its limitation (at lines 2 and 3) "said display means displaying left and right images on the display panel in positions that are shifted to the left and right, respectively." As mentioned previously, the combination of Hebert, Holmes, Jr., and Bos does not suggest such a feature. In addition, with regard to claim 27, claim 27 contains the limitation at lines 2 and 3 "said display displaying left and right images on the display panel in positions that are shifted to the left and right, respectively". As noted above, the combination of Hebert, Holmes, Jr., and Bos fails to suggest such a feature. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 11, 19 and 27 have been improperly rejected.

Having shown that each of claims 1 - 3, 5, 11, 17 - 19, 21 and 27 have been improperly rejected on the prior art of record, it is respectfully requested that, unless more pertinent prior art is found by the Examiner, a Notice of Allowance be provided on the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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